

Dolphins seen in Duxbury

By Susanna Sheehan
Clipper Editor

Over the weekend, several common dolphins were spotted in Duxbury Bay and two became stranded in Gurnet Creek in Plymouth near the town line.

Duxbury Harbormaster Jake Emerson said the dolphins that traveled up Gurnet Creek on Sunday became stuck in shallow water when the tide went out. The New England Aquarium and state environmental officials worked to free the dolphins, a mother and calf, which were released into deep water and made a successful recovery. Approximately six other dolphins that were also stuck caught the incoming tide and made their way to deeper water.

Local media reported that the dolphins were in Duxbury but, according to Emerson, this was incorrect.

However, a dolphin seen swimming in the creek deep in the marshes off Bay Road Sunday did not survive. It was euthanized and taken to Boston for testing, according to Emerson.

Dolphin strandings on the South Shore are rare and are more common on Cape Cod. On Sunday, the International Fund for Animal Welfare marine mammal rescue team saved two common dolphins in Barnstable Harbor. The IFAW has responded to more than 150 incidents of marine mammal strandings in the region in 2016, which is usually high.

The dolphins often go into shallow water looking for food and become trapped by the outgoing tides.

If anyone spots a stranded sea animal in Duxbury, they should call the New England Aquarium's Marine Animal Rescue Hotline at 617-973- 5247.



This photo of a dolphin was taken at Gurnet Creek in Plymouth near the Duxbury town line on Sunday. It became stuck in shallow water when the tide went out but was eventually rescued.

Photo courtesy Jake Emerson